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Station: Berlin Operation's No: ESC/Ops/002
Reference: AB 52 Report No: MGB-746 *index*
Source: Ford, Gambit Report Date: 25 November 1946
Evaluation: B *ced* Information Date: Current
SUBJECT: GAMBIT PROJECT. Date Info Received: 21-22 Nov 1946

1. Contrary to our expectations, the "Sitting Duck" Project for which Gambit was originally brought to Berlin gave no results which could be termed valuable from a counter-espionage interest. Reviewing that project, it becomes quite clear that certain mistakes were made in handling it, the most important of which was the assumption that the interest of the Soviet Intelligence Service in OMGUS was so great, and that a penetration of OMGUS had already been accomplished by the RIS to the extent that any German national placed in a sensitive position with OMGUS would be approached by a Russian agent as a matter of course. Events have proven this assumption to have been false. Not only was Gambit one of the key German employees not approached during her five months tenure in the Economics Division of OMGUS, but she even failed, although a trained counter-intelligence operator, to find traces of Soviet penetration. It has now been proven to our satisfaction that we cannot realistically expect that Gambit (out of 8400 employees of OMGUS) will be contacted by a representative of the Soviet intelligence, unless we purposely draw the attention of some particular RIS officer, through the use of a double agent, to the personality of Gambit.

2. It will be remembered that MVD Captain SKURIN has only recently instructed Ford to trace the whereabouts of Hildegard BEETZ. (For reference see BSC 608, dated 9 November 1946.) In this connection Ford has now made two visits to Weimar, and through interviews with Gambit's family, succeeded in ascertaining that Gambit is presently in Berlin. There was no indication that Ford received any information indicating that Hildegard BEETZ had changed her name. In view of the above, it seemed advisable to exploit SKURIN's interest in Gambit, whom he already knew by her real name, and indicate to him both her present name, and to a limited extent, her whereabouts and occupation.

3. Ford was therefore instructed to report to Captain SKURIN that Hildegard BEETZ, formerly of the RSHA, is now Hildegard BLUM, confidential secretary in an important division of the U. S. Military Government Headquarters. A cover-story will be used in explaining to SKURIN how source was able to get hold of this information. Source was instructed not to facilitate arrest of Gambit by SKURIN. However, it is not anticipated that SKURIN will insist on the arrest of Gambit, and we consider it more likely that his primary interest will be the securing of Gambit's services for Russian intelligence.

4. The project, of course, is one that should look most attractive to SKURIN. Not only has he now a chance to enlist the services of one of the best known RSHA operatives, but his target is already established in an important American military government agency in which the Soviets are definitely interested. In addition he received the information, every angle of which can be carefully checked, from one of his oldest and most trusted agents. (The project is attractive to us, too, for two reasons. Not only do we finally activate Gambit, but we also ~~establish~~ *credit* with SKURIN.)

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5. The project has been thoroughly discussed with Gambit, who agreed to every phase of it. Not only is she looking forward to a more exciting and active role than the one she has been playing for the past few months, but she hopes, by becoming what the KVD will think active for them, to divert Russian attention from her family in Weimar. (Gambit, of course, was not told that the man making inquiries about her in Weimar was an agent of ours.) Gambit has been briefed about her future behavior. She was warned not to enter the Russian Sector under any circumstances, and advised not to submit to arrest by German police authority. The Zehlendorf CIC Detachment, the telephone number of which will be given Gambit, in addition to our telephone numbers which she already has, will be asked to be on the alert in preventing a possible unauthorized arrest of Hildegard BLUM.

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